## School Board

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Superintendent of Schools MaryEllen Elia

October 28, 2011

Chairman Julius Genachowski Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, SW Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I would like to voice my opinion on the important issue at hand regarding Lifeline and its impact on the people in my district. It is clear to me that Lifeline must remain a free service to those who qualify.

The people who use Lifeline are everyday Americans who are suffering under unusually dismal economic times. They are people who may be one medical bill, or one rent increase, away from total financial ruin. Lifeline has been an invaluable service that helps people search for employment at a time when jobs that can support a family are scarce.

As you look at potential changes to the Lifeline program and strategize on how it can best meet its goals, I hope that you recognize the many benefits Lifeline brings to the families who utilize it. These benefits can only be fully realized by keeping Lifeline cost-free to any and all subscribers.

Sincerely,

Susan L. Valdes

School Board Member

District 1

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